

2011

Fagus grandifolia

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Recommended Citation

Coons, Janice; Coutant, Nancy; and Whiteside, Wesley, "Fagus grandifolia" (2011). *Plants by Genus Species*. 8.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/whiteside_species/8

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Wes Whiteside—Species Information Sheet

I. Nomenclature

Family: Fagaceae

Genus Species(Authority): *Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh.

Subspecies/Variety(Authority):

Cultivar:

Common Name: American beech

II. Origin (country and/or habitat)

Native/Rare **Native/Uncommon** Old World/Rare Old
World/Uncommon

American beech has a broad native range across eastern North America from northern Florida, north to Maine and Nova Scotia, west to Michigan and eastern Wisconsin, south along the southeastern border of Illinois and Missouri and into southern Arkansas, southeastern Texas, and Louisiana across the Gulf of Mexico states all forming a perimeter wherein it is distributed (Burns 1990).

III. Habit

Tree	Shrub	Vine
Herbaceous Annual Perennial	Herbaceous Biennial	Herbaceous

Flowering Season: April to early May

Flower Color: Male flowers in catkins, female flowers occur in pairs

Fruit Type: Three winged nuts formed in an involucre

IV. Source of Plant Material

From where or whom obtained and when: One plant of *Fagus grandifolia* came from Edgar County in Illinois in 1965, while the other two came from Clark County, Illinois in 1965 and 1975.

Propagule Material:

Seed

Vegetative

Whole Plant

Details:

Availability: American beech has a limited availability relative to the European beech

V. Cultural

Special Soil Type: Well drained but not too dry

Soil Moisture: Wet

Mesic

Dry

Other

VI. Additional Comments

The beeches are difficult to get going when young. Dr. Whiteside has had problems with borers that will lay eggs in the unshaded trunk and large branches. While the American beech is common in its native range, it remains uncommon in cultivation.

VII. Literature Cited

- Burns, R. M. and B. H. Honkala. 1990. Silvics of North America ; Volume 2, Hardwoods. Washington DC: Forest Service; USDA.
- Dirr, M. A. 1998. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants :Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing L. L. C..



